

Doynton Parish Pump

Local Nature Action Plans: Little Things Matter: as part of South Gloucestershire Council Biodiversity Action Plan, Doynton has been asked to build its own parish plan to help nature, addressing broader issues like preserving or recovering habitats and creating nature corridors where nature can thrive. Sarah Magraw (sarah.magraw [at] gmail.com) has taken on responsibility for building Doynton's plan. Potential projects being evaluated are: a wildlife tower; the creation of a wildlife corridor between Doynton and Dyrham; and a scheme to monitor the health of our rivers. Other parish plans are shown here: <https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/Local-Nature-Action-Plans-guidance-for-town-and-parish-councils.pdf>.

Bulb planting: keep an eye out on Toghill Lane next spring – as part of our Local Nature Action plan, we have been given almost 1000 spring bulbs, to help create “pollinator pathways” in and around the village. The designated planting area is both sides of Toghill Lane, from the bus shelter to Rectory Farmhouse.

Doynton Village Market: next markets November 2nd and 16th, 10.00–11.00 a.m., in the village hall (no market Sat 30th). We will be gearing up for Christmas during November and December, so please order directly with the producer, or call 07711 670704 (**note new number**) before midday on the previous Wednesday. No Christmas meat or poultry orders this year, sadly, as we have lost our supplier.

The **Memory Cafe at Doynton** has received a Bronze Award as a Dementia Aware Organization from Bristol Dementia Action Alliance. **Next café November 7th** in Doynton village hall for activities, companionship and lots of cake for people with dementia and their carers. For more information, see Facebook “The Memory Cafe at Doynton”, email mcdoynton [at] gmail.com or call/text 07817 311001.

The stupendous **playing field quiz** will take place at the village hall on **Saturday November 16th**. (7.30 p.m. for a prompt start at 8.00 p.m., tickets £20 for a team of four people or £5 per single ticket – cash only, please). Pay bar – cash or card. Donations of raffle prizes would be greatly appreciated – please bring them on the night. For more information, contact Jane Stewart (johnjane252 [at] gmail.com) or tel. 0117 937 3299.

The “**Warm Wednesdays**” **community café** is back every Wednesday, 10.30 a.m.–12.00 noon, in the village hall. Be there or be square!

On October 6th, Rev. Elaine led the **Harvest/Friends of Doynton** service in a beautifully decorated church. After this we enjoyed a bring-and-share lunch, with delicious puddings from the catering team. It was a very happy occasion.

Doynton and Wick WI: the speaker on October 9th was Jason Coward, National Chair of the Royal British Legion, on the organization’s work on behalf of serving and former members of the armed forces. The next meeting, on November 9th at Doynton village hall, is the AGM, with a talk on “Modern Art”. The competition is a “hands-on creation. Come and meet your new committee!

Saturday October 12th was the **Friends of Summers Field** annual Autumn Feast, featuring a barn dance, ploughman's supper and apple crumble. It was very well attended and, judging by the smiles on everyone's faces as they tried to master the dances, was greatly enjoyed. Our thanks to everyone who helped with the organization and came along to support us. With your help, we raised almost £550 for the maintenance of the orchard.

Doynton House National Gardens Scheme opening: the experiment with a September rather than July opening was a leap into the unknown, but attracted 270 paying visitors on a day with a distinctly iffy weather forecast. Thank you to everyone who helped. We were able to send nearly £3000 to the NGS from this opening alone. THANK YOU, DOYNTON!

Congratulations to former Doynton resident **Marie Perryman**, who celebrates her 100th birthday in November!

Dates for your diary: more details next month

Friends of Summers Field: demonstration of **fruit-tree and hedge pruning** on **January 19th 2025** at 10.00 a.m.

Doynton Hard Half Marathon is on **February 2nd 2025** at 11.00 a.m.

Seed swap and plant sale on **March 8th 2025** (10.00 a.m.–12 noon) in the village hall. Now is a good time to collect and save seed, especially seed from wildflowers and garden plants that attract wildlife.

Post Office in the village hall: every Thursday 9.30–10.30 a.m. for standard post office services. Order groceries by 6.00 p.m. Wednesday for collection (Oldland Common Post Office and Store, tel. 932 3159).